

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dynamic web page generation system, comprising:
  - a template processor that generates dynamic web pages according to corresponding web page templates in response to page requests from browsers, wherein the template processor generates service requests to request content from a set of services, and uses the content returned by such services to generate the web pages according to corresponding web page templates;
  - a monitoring component that monitors the operation of the template processor over time and generates a mapping of page generation tasks to corresponding service calls that are made as part of such page generation tasks; and
  - a prefetch component that is responsive to a page request from a browser by using the mapping to identify a set of service requests to be made preemptively, such that service content that is deemed likely to be used by the template processor to generate the requested page is prefetched.
2. The dynamic web page generation system of Claim 1, wherein the mapping comprises a table that maps URLs to service requests frequently used to respond to requests for such URLs.
3. The dynamic web page generation system of Claim 1, wherein the monitoring component updates the mapping substantially in real time to reflect service requests actually used to generate requested web pages, such that service request predictions made by the prefetch component adapt automatically in response to page generation events.
4. The dynamic web page generation system of Claim 1, wherein the prefetch and monitoring components include a prefetch client component that communicates with a prefetch service component, wherein the prefetch client component is responsive to the page request by retrieving from the prefetch service component a listing of service requests associated with the page request, as reflected in the mapping.
5. The dynamic web page generation system of Claim 4, wherein the prefetch client is configured to send feedback messages to the prefetch service component identifying the service requests actually used to generate requested pages, and the prefetch service component updates the mapping to reflect the feedback messages.

6. The dynamic web page generation system of Claim 1, wherein the monitoring component comprises an off-line analysis component that analyzes service request activity data collected over time to regenerate and/or update said mapping.

7. The dynamic web page generation system of Claim 1, wherein the monitoring component and the prefetch component collectively operate so as to allow a second service request that is dependent upon a result of a first service request to be performed in parallel with the first service request, such that a latency caused by the chaining of dependent service requests is substantially avoided.

8. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 17, wherein the prefetch component takes service load conditions into consideration in determining whether to make the service requests preemptively, so that unnecessary service requests are reduced during heavy service load conditions.

9. A method for reducing dynamic document generation times, comprising:

for at least one document generation task, monitoring the performance of the task over time to generate data reflective of frequencies with which specific data retrieval subtasks are performed as part of the document generation task;

receiving a document request that corresponds to the document generation task;

in response to receiving the document request, using said data to identify a set of data retrieval subtasks that are deemed likely to be performed as part of the document generation task to generate the requested document; and

initiating at least some of the data retrieval subtasks in said set before they are initiated as the result of the performance of the document generation task, to thereby prefetch data that is deemed likely to be used to generate the requested document.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the data reflective of frequencies with which specific data retrieval subtasks are performed is incorporated within a table that maps document generation tasks to respective sets of subtasks.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of using the data to identify a set of data retrieval subtasks comprises looking up said set of data retrieval subtasks from a table that maps document generation tasks to corresponding subtasks.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the method comprises performing second data retrieval subtask that is dependent upon a result of a first data retrieval subtask without waiting for the first data retrieval subtask to be completed.

13. The method of Claim 9, wherein at least some of the data retrieval subtasks in said set are service requests.

14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the document generation task corresponds to a particular dynamically generated web page.

15. The method of Claim 9, wherein the document generation task corresponds to plurality of related web pages.

16. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of initiating at least some of the data retrieval subtasks comprises selecting subtasks to perform preemptively based at least in-part on current load conditions.

17. A dynamic document generation system, comprising:

a template processor that generates documents according to corresponding document templates in response to document requests from client computers, wherein the template processor performs data retrieval subtasks to retrieve data used to dynamically generate the documents;

a monitoring component that monitors the template processor over time and generates a mapping of document generation tasks to corresponding subtasks that are performed as part of such document generation tasks; and

a prefetch component that is responsive to a document request from a client computer by using the mapping to identify a set of data retrieval subtasks to be performed preemptively, such that data retrieval subtasks that are otherwise performed sequentially may be performed in parallel.

18. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 17, wherein the mapping comprises a table that maps URLs to data retrieval subtasks frequently used to respond to requests for such URLs.

19. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 18, wherein at least some of the data retrieval subtasks that are performed preemptively are service requests.

20. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 17, wherein the monitoring component updates the mapping in real time to reflect data retrieval subtasks actually used to generate requested documents.

21. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 17, wherein the prefetch component comprises a prefetch client component that communicates with a prefetch service component, wherein the prefetch client component is responsive to the document request by retrieving from the prefetch service component a listing of data retrieval subtasks that are deemed likely to be used to respond to the document request, as reflected in the mapping.

22. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 17, wherein the monitoring component comprises a prefetch client component that communicates with a prefetch service component, wherein the prefetch client component is configured to send feedback messages to the prefetch service component identifying the data retrieval subtasks actually used to generate requested documents, and the prefetch service component updates the mapping to reflect the feedback messages.

23. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 17, wherein the monitoring component comprises an off-line analysis component that analyzes task activity data collected over time to generate and/or update said mapping.

24. The dynamic document generation system of Claim 17, wherein the prefetch component determines whether to perform a data retrieval subtask preemptively based at least in part on current load conditions.